

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 DOTE-00 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 AS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 AID-05 L-03 HEW-02 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECP:WFALKNER;BWL

APPROVED BY ARA : WHLUERS

ARA/LA/NC:FJDEVINE(DRAFT)

ARA/LA/NC:DCOX (IN DRAFT)

ARA/ECP:JO'MAHONY

USDA:RFELTNER (IN SUBSTANCE)

DOT/FHWA:WTMCKENDRICK (SUBSTANCE)

----- 071160

P R 190030Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 273456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRN, CO

SUBJECT: DARIEN GAP CONSULTATIVE GROUP

REF: BOGOTA 10770

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM LUERS

1. WE HAVE CONSULTED DOT AND USDA ON YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL. OUR CONSENSUS IS TO TRY TO CONCLUDE THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP (CG) MEETING IN ONE DAY, THE SENIOR REVIEW GROUP AND DOT-MOP TALKS IN TWO DAYS. WE PREFER TO MEET DEC. 9, 10 AND 11, RESERVING THE 12TH FOR A CONTINGENCY ONLY.

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2. DOT INDICATES THAT THEIR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WOULD

REQUIRE HALF A DAY AT THE MOST, WHILE USDA FEELS TWO DAYS FOR THE SRG SHOULD BE VERY ADEQUATE. AS FOR THE CG, WE THINK THERE SHOULD BE TWO SESSIONS ON THE 11TH. IN THE FIRST SESSION ALL PARTIES COULD GATHER TO PRESENT A REVIEW OF THE USDA-MINAG AND DOT-MOP DISCUSSIONS. THIS WOULD SERVE THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE FULLY AWARE OF PROBLEMS AND AREAS OF CONCERN.

3. THE AFTERNOON SESSION, WE ARE CONVINCED, SHOULD CONSIST ONLY OF THE POLICY LEVEL PRINCIPAL OF EACH AGENCY (PLUS NOTETAKERS) AS THIS IS WHERE THE REAL, SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WILL RESULT. WE DO NOT SEE HOW DR. MARINO, OTHERS FROM ICA, AND INDERENA OFFICIALS CAN PARTICIPATE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS WHICH MAY ULTIMATELY RESULT IN ACTIONS AFFECTING THEIR AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY AS MANY ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS CAN BE LAID AT THEIR DOOR. OF COURSE THIS WOULD MEAN EXCLUSION OF OUR OWN TECHNICAL LEVEL PEOPLE.

4. WITH THE FOREGOING IN MIND, PLEASE INFORM THE GOC THAT WE ARE HAPPY TO ACCEPT THEIR PROPOSAL FOR A SRG/CG MEETING DURING THE PERIOD DEC. 9-12 WITH THE HOPE THAT THE ENTIRE EVENT COULD BE LIMITED TO THE FIRST THREE DAYS. WE PROPOSE THE SENIOR REVIEW GROUP MEET DEC. 9-10 AND THE HIGHWAY OFFICIALS MEET DEC. 10 ONLY. THE CG WOULD MEET ON DEC. 11 AND, IF NECESSARY, COULD CONTINUE THROUGH DEC. 12. THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF AN "EXECUTIVE SESSION" MEETING IS IMPORTANT IN PLANNING OUR STRATEGY. PLEASE INFORM US OF THE GOC REACTION.

5. DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR GOVERNOR TIEMANN AND YOU TO CALL ON THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, WITH A SIMILAR CALL BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FELTNER AND YOU ON THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE? IN ADDITION TO THE PROTOCOLARY REASONS FOR THE VISITS, THESE MEETINGS MAY HELP STIMULATE MINISTERIAL LEVEL INTEREST IN THE OUT-COME OF THE SESSIONS, AND ENSURE MINISTERIAL AND PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL INVOLVEMENT IN THE GOC DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AS CONCERNS THESE TWO PROJECTS. WE WOULD ALSO BENEFIT FROM ANOTHER FIRSTHAND IMPRESSION OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL INTERESTS IN THE PROJECTS. KISSINGER
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